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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Radio Service
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

RELEASE ON RECEIPT
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Subject: "FORNIGHTLY FOOD-SHOPPING TIPS." Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Consumers' Counsel, U.S.D.A.

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More news today of the foods coming to market. More news direct from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to help you plan meals and buy food for your family.

You will be glad to know that the United States will have plenty of food during this new year 1941. In fact, during the first six months of this year supplies of food will be considerably larger than in any recent year, unless unfavorable weather comes along to damage crops. From the looks of things now, the country will have no shortage of any important food, and many foods will be more plentiful than last year. The exception is pork. Not so much pork in '41 as in '40 is the prediction. As for what you will pay for food in '41, average prices will probably be higher, even though supplies are large. The price of food may go up because people will have more money to spend on food.

Here's what the forecasters say about pork. They predict smaller supplies of pork, and higher prices this year. Last year pork supplies were record-size, and prices low. Then, the price of corn went up. And then farmers began to cut down on their hogs to save the expense of feeding them corn at higher prices. So you can expect less pork in 1941 than you had in 1940.

As for beef, more of this meat is coming on the market, but prices will probably be higher just the same. The predictions right now are that the country will have more beef during 1941 than it has had during the past 15 years. The rise in the price of beef will probably come during the next 6 months. In the

later summer and fall you probably will be paying about the same for beef as you paid in the same period of 1940. Beef of the quality that rates the grade of "Good" or "Choice" will go up more in price than lower-grade beef. So far the price of lower-grade beef has gone up only slightly.

Here's the news about lamb. Your market will probably have about as much lamb for sale as it had last year, but you'll pay more for it. From now on for the next 4 months most of the lamb on the market will be grain-fed. This lamb will be selling for slightly more than it did last year. Prices and supplies of lamb later in the year will depend on the size of the spring crop of lambs. During the past 10 years the lamb crop has been about the same size from year to year.

So much for the news about the meat coming to market these days. Now for news of poultry and eggs. Your markets won't have as many eggs for sale this year as last. And during the first half of the year not so much poultry will be on sale either. After June more poultry may be coming to market. But eggs will still be fewer than last year.

Now let's have a look at the fruits coming to market this winter and spring. Markets will have fewer pears but slightly more apples than last year, and considerably more citrus fruit--more grapefruit, oranges, tangerines and lemons. More of the citrus crop is going in storage than last year, or any year since '37, So larger supplies are expected. The current citrus crops are very large—record or close-to-record in size. However, the orange and grapefruit crops, just going to market, are not as large as they promised to be, because of unfavorable weather during the past two months. The <u>entire</u> citrus crop in Florida and California will not go to market this winter. Marketing programs in these States will keep some fruit off the market. Even so, much more citrus fruit will be for sale this winter than last. And prices of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and lemons will be lower than a year ago.

Here's the news about vegetables: More vegetables due for 1941 than we had in 1940, unless unfavorable weather cuts down crops. Prices of fresh vegetables will probably be lower than a year ago. You may remember that about this time last year a cold wave came along and ruined a lot of vegetable crops in the South. Then the price of vegetables on the market, tender vegetables especially, went up. But this year prices should be lower because fresh vegetables promise to be so much more plentiful. You can expect to see more potatoes on the market, more tender vegetables, and more onions, but fewer sweetpotatoes than a year ago.

Last of all, here's news of dairy products. From the looks of things now, the cows of the country are going to give us more milk in the first half of '41 than they gave in the same period of '40. The United States has more cows than it had a year ago. And with plentiful feed these cows will naturally produce more milk. So, as long as pasture conditions are favorable, you can expect more milk and other dairy products. But just the same, prices of dairy products are likely to be higher.

All in all, the picture of food in '41 seems to be about this: Larger supplies of almost everything but pork and eggs, yet higher prices for most foods.

That concludes the food tips for today. More will be coming in from the U. S. Department of Agriculture in a couple of weeks.

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